



NON-TRAUMATIC HYPERTENSIVE CRISIS

FIELD ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT INDICATORS

1. Headache, blurred vision.
2. Neurological deficit.
3. Altered level of consciousness.
4. Chest pain, dyspnea.
5. Pulmonary edema.
6. Abrupt elevation of diastolic blood pressure.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Nitroglycerin is contraindicated for use in a hypertensive crisis of unknown etiology.

BLS INTERVENTIONS

1. Reduce anxiety; allow patient to assume position of comfort and elevate head slightly.
2. Administer oxygen as clinically indicated; prepare to support ventilations as clinically indicated.
3. Consider transport to closest hospital or ALS intercept.

ALS INTERVENTIONS

1. Maintain airway with appropriate adjuncts.
2. Obtain oxygen saturation on room air, if possible, unless detrimental to patient condition.
3. Place on cardiac monitor and obtain rhythm strip for documentation. Copy to receiving hospital.
4. Obtain vascular access -- saline lock preferred.
5. Contact Base Station.